



October 24, 2013

Mr. Kome Ajise  
Deputy Director for Planning and Modal Programs  
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)  
1120 N Street, MS-49  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Comments on the Draft National Freight Policy Recommendations**

Dear Mr. Ajise:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the discussions of the California Freight Advisory Committee (CFAC) and to review the proposed draft policy recommendations. We believe that the policy recommendations submitted to the U.S.D.O.T. and Congress must ensure California is positioned well for any funding that may be made available in the next bill cycle. We would also like to offer the following suggestions for your consideration in finalizing the draft policy recommendations.

We believe that the proposed recommendations would benefit from being better structured to provide short, medium, and long-term policy recommendations.

Furthermore, we believe that "safety" needs to have its own independent section in the list of policy recommendations and all safety-related recommendations currently scattered in different sections need to be included in that new section to give this important issue more prominence.

Also, one important policy area that we believe is absent in the attached list of recommendations, which needs to be added, is the issue of truck size and weight. This issue can be added under the newly created "safety" section in the list of policy recommendations. We have endorsed the study that was included in MAP-21 and want to see the outcome of that research before considering any changes in current policy regarding this very important issue that affects both traffic safety and truck impacts on our aging infrastructure system. The national freight policy needs to be developed in full consideration of implications of truck size and weight increases and whether that can be accomplished without compromising safety or negatively impacting infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration of our suggestions in preparing the final document. We are looking forward to further discussion of these issues in the upcoming meeting of CFAC on November 6, 2013 in San Diego, and to provide further input as the process proceeds.

Sincerely,

Hamid Bahadori  
Manager, Transportation Policy and Programs

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